Guidelines issued by Central Adoption Research Agency

2837. SHRI LALIT SURI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the guidelines issued in 2004 by the Central Adoption Research Agency (CARA) regarding uniform procedure for adoptions in the country;

(b) the number of the orphaned and children in distress identified by CARA in the Tsunami hit areas who require rehabilitation;

(c) the number out of them who have been adopted in the country and by foreigners, separately; and

(d) the amount spent by CARA on rehabilitation of such children so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) These guidelines cover issues including adoption fees, age criteria for adoptive parents as well as for children to be adopted, safeguards, role of agencies and State Governments/UT Administrations

(b) and (c) CARA does not identify orphaned children. CARA does not regulate and monitor domestic adoptions which is done by the State Governments. However, it has not issued "no objection certificate" in respect of any Tsunami orphaned child for inter-country adoption.

(d) Does not arise.

Harassment of dalits

†2838. DR. KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents regarding harassment of dalits have risen recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that laws related to prevention of harassment of dalits are proving ineffective; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating to enact any effective law in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):(a) and (b) No, Sir. The offences of atrocities registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 as reported by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have declined from 30,022 cases in the year 2001 to 22,603 in the year 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Economic and social level of Primitive Tribal Groups

†2839. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the economic and social level of "Primitive Tribal Groups" which are more backward than the other tribals in general;

(b) the amount spent during the last two years for improvement of the lifestyle/level of such tribals;

(c) whether any practical investigation has been conducted to ascertain the extent of improvement in their living standard; and

(d) the ongoing projects for the improvement of their living standard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Primitive Tribal Groups are covered under all programmes implemented by this Ministry for welfare and development of scheduled tribes. In addition, the Ministry has been running an exclusive scheme namely 'Development of Primitive Tribals Groups' since 1998-99 for improvement of social and economic level of these tribal groups. The scheme involves funding for infrastructure development, income generating programmes, insurance under 'Janshree Bima Yojana', support to self help

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.